

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 AEC-11 NASA-04 SCI-06

RSR-01 /159 W

----- 074475

R 271648Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 034

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T ROME 7515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IT, NATO

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR

REF: ROME 6963

1. IN JULY 27 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, DA RIN (CHIEF OF MFA NATO OFFICE) PROVIDED RUNDOWN ON RESULTS OF PARIS BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND COPENHAGEN JULY 25 EC MEETING ON SUBJECT AGREEMENT (REFTEL). DA RIN SAID FRENCH HAD BEEN EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF NUCLEAR AGREEMENT, TERMING IT A POLITICAL WATERSHED WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO EUROPEAN INTERESTS. BOTH IN PARIS

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VILATERALS AND COPENHAGEN MEETING, FRENCH HAD HARPED ON THEME

OF TWO SUPERPOWERS ARROGATING TO THEMSELVES ROLE OF WORLD POLICE-MEN, WITH CONSEQUENT DIMINUTION IN DECISION-MAKING ROLE OF OTHER SMALLER NATIONS. ACCORDING TO DA RIN, FRENCH, DURING COPENHAGEN SESSION, HAD CITED KISSINGER'S COMMENTS AT SAN CLEMENTE REGARDING IMPACT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE HAD ON BERLIN CRISIS AS EVIDENCE OF THIS, ASKING HOW THIS BILATERAL AGREEMENT SQUARES WITH FOUR-POWER RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERLIN. (REF PARA 32, STATE 138485).

2. AS TO ITALIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD AGREEMENT, DA RIN OBSERVED THAT THEY FALL SOMEWHERE BETWEEN FRENCH AND GERMANS. (DA RIN NOTED THAT GERMAN REPS AT COPENHAGEN MEETING WEADP582
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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

NIC-01 RSR-01 SSO-00 /109 W
----- 074533

R 271740Z JUL 73
FM USMISSION BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2146
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1289

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GE
SUBJECT: SPECULATIONS ON ULBRICHT

REF: BERLIN 819

1. ON JULY 22, EAST GERMAN MEDIA FIRST PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER SED PARTY CHIEF AND GDR HEAD OF STATE, 80-YEAR-OLD WALTER ULBRICHT, HAD SUFFERED SERIOUS HEART ATTACK ON JULY 19. SINCE THAT TIME RUMOR MILLS IN EAST AND WEST BERLIN HAVE GROUND OUT SPECULATIONS RANGING FROM: 1) ACCOUNTS THAT ULBRICHT DIED SHORTLY THEREAFTER,

BUT REGIME IS KEEPING DEATH SECRET UNTIL CONCLUSION OF
WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL (WYF) AUGUST 5; TO 2) REPORTS THAT
TEAM OF HEART SPECIALISTS HAVE TO DATE SUCCEEDED IN
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KEEPING HIM BARELY ALIVE. STRICT SECURITY PROCEDURES AS
WELL AS TRANSFER OF ULBRICHT FROM CITY HOSPITAL TO HIS
RELATIVELY REMOTE HOME IN OUTSKIRTS EAST BERLIN, HAVE
HAMPERED WESTERN PRESS EFFORTS ASCERTAIN WHAT SITUATION
REALY IS.

2. PERHAPS MOST INTRIGUING RUMOR AT PRESENT--WHICH
STEMS FROM USUALLY WELL-INFORMED WEST BERLIN JOURNALISTIC
SOURCE--IS BASED ON BELIEF THAT ULBRICHT ACTUALLY DIED
ON JULY 22. SOURCE'S RUMOR HAS IT THAT REGIME INTENDS
TO KEEP DEATH SECRET UNTIL AFTER AUGUST 5 UNLESS WYF
ROUNS INTO DIFFICULTIES, IN WHICH CASE IT WOULD BE
ANNOUNCED AND REST OF FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE CAN-
CELLED. CAREFULL WORDING OF OCCASIONAL, UNDATED, ADN
RELEASES ON ULBRICHT'S CONDITION DO NOT RULE OUT THIS
POSSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH HONECKER'S PUBLICIZED VISIT TO ULBRICHT'S
BEDSIDE ON JULY 23 SEEMS TO UNDERCUT JULY 22 DEATH HYPOTHESIS.

3. REGARDLESS OF PRECISE TIME AT WHICH EVENT TAKES PLACE,
ULBRICHT'S IMMINENT PASSING FROM SCENE AGAIN RAISES
QUESTION OF CHANGE IN GDR HIERARCHY (PARA 10, REFTEL).
MOST PERSISTENT EAST BERLIN REPORT AT THIS JUNCTURE HAS
ALING STOPH TAKING ON ULBRICHT'S LESS STRENUOUS CEREMONIAL
TASKS AS STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND SINDERMANN TAKING
OVER REINS OF GOVERNMENT IN STOPH'S PLACE. VITAL
QUESTIONS REMAIN, OF COURSE, AS TO WHETHER STOPH IS
WILLING TO RELINQUISH REAL POWER FOR VIRTUAL RETIREMENT,
OR WHETHER HONECKER WILL ATTEMPT TO RESIST HAVING SUCH
POPULAR AND INFLUENTIAL FIGURE AS SINDERMANN MOVE INTO
POSITION GREATER AUTHORITY AT THIS TIME. IN LATTER
CONTEXT, IT APPEARS AT LEAST PLAUSIBLE THAT CURRENT
DEPUTY STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, AGED FRIEDRICH EBERT, MIGHT
BE CALLED UPON TO FILL ULBRICHT'S CEREMONIAL ROLE UNTIL
LINES OF PROMOTION MORE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED.BORG

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